

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended without introduction of new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by European Patent No. 488,257 to Fukayama. Claims 2-4 are allowed.

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 2-4.

Addressing the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Fukayama, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a passing means for passing a larger current component of a third current signal to obtain a second current signal; and for blocking a smaller current component of the third current signal. The larger and smaller current components are larger and smaller, respectively, than a threshold current generated by a constant current source.

Applicants' Figure 2 illustrates a non-limiting example of the claimed invention. A transistor M1 passes a current signal component above a threshold current I_{TH} of a constant current source 106; and blocks a current signal component below the threshold current I_{TH} .¹ The untreated current signal is illustrated by the lower waveform. The new current signal, formed by passing the current signal component above the threshold current I_{TH} , is illustrated by the upper waveform.

In contrast, Fukayama's third transistor Tr3 (cited as teaching the claimed "passing means") does not pass/block a current signal component based on a threshold current generated from a constant current source. Rather, Fukayama's third transistor Tr3 merely passes a current signal (i.e., the combined collector currents of two transistors Tr1, Tr2) in

¹ Specification, page 11, lines 4-19.

accordance with a bias signal V_{B3} .² An example of the current signal in Fukayama, both before and after passing the transistor Tr3, is illustrated by the waveform of Applicants' Exhibit 1. As shown by a comparison of that waveform and the upper waveform of Applicants' Figure 2, Fukayama's lack of a threshold current (e.g., as generated by the claimed "constant current source") results in a different output than in the claimed invention.

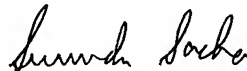
Accordingly, for the above stated reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Fukayama be withdrawn.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the comments within the Advisory Action mailed April 27, 2005. The foregoing amendment and remarks are believed to fully address those comments. However, should the Examiner disagree, Applicants respectfully request that he contact the undersigned representative before issuing the next official communication.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

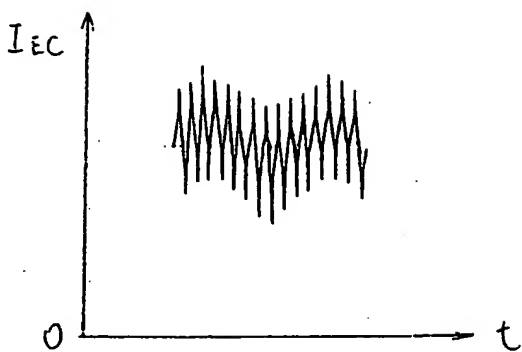
Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423

EHK/SNS/STD/kke

I:\ATTY\STD\24's\248679US\248679US.AM.042705.DOC

² Fukayama, Abstract and Figure 12.



EXHIBIT